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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST WOMEN
Twelfth session
Vienna, 18 January-5 February 1993

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.

2. Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee.

3. Election of officers.

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

5. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

6. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.

8. Consideration of the report of the fourth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and action taken by the General Assembly concerning treaty bodies.

9. Contributions of the Committee to international conferences.

10. Provisional agenda for the thirteenth session.

11. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twelfth session.

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ANNOTATIONS

Item 1

The twelfth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Item 2

According to rule 10 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, 1/ new members of the Committee shall make the solemn declaration contained in that rule.

Item 3

The Committee shall elect a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur for a term of two years, according to rules 13 and 14 of its rules of procedure and to article 19 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex). The term of the officers elected on 21 January 1991 by the Committee at its tenth session expires on 21 January 1993. According to rule 14 of the rules of procedure, the officers shall be eligible for re-election, provided that the principle of rotation is upheld. Under rule 43, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure, if there is an agreed slate, the candidates can be elected by acclamation, without holding a secret ballot.

Item 4

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure stipulates that the agenda shall be adopted by the Committee at the beginning of its meetings. Rule 5 of the rules of procedure provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17-22 of the Convention, giving priority to any item the inclusion of which was decided at a previous session of the Committee.

At its eleventh session, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its twelfth session. 2/

The Committee has, since its sixth session, set up two standing working groups: working group I, to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee; and working group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. At its seventh session, the Committee decided to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. 3/ At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that the working groups should be open only to members of the Committee, in accordance with past practice. Specialized agencies and other bodies that could make substantive contributions to items under consideration by a working group could be invited by the working group to contribute to its deliberations. 4/ The working groups will meet during the session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (CEDAW/C/1993/1)

Item 5

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties to the Convention shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and on progress made in this respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that reports would be selected for consideration on the basis of the date on which they had been received. In the event that a State party to the Convention did not wish to present a report, the Secretariat was authorized to select the report of another State party from the reserve list, also in the order of the date on which the report had been received. 5/

At its twelfth session, the Committee will have before it reports submitted by 13 States parties, based on consultations by the Secretary-General with the States parties concerned. The reports are as follows: for Bangladesh, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/13/Add.30); for France, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/FRA/2); for Guyana, the initial report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.63); for Iraq, the initial report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.66/Rev.1); for Kenya, the initial and second periodic reports combined* (CEDAW/C/KEN/1-2); for Madagascar, the initial report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.65/Rev.1); for Nicaragua, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/13/Add.20) and the third periodic report (CEDAW/C/NIC/3), to be considered together; 6/ for the Republic of Korea, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/13/Add.28); for Romania, the initial report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.45) and the second and third periodic reports combined* (CEDAW/C/ROM/2-3); for Rwanda, the third periodic report (CEDAW/C/RWA/3); for Sweden, the third periodic report (CEDAW/C/18/Add.1); for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/UK/2 and Amend.1); and for Yemen, the initial report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.61) and the second periodic report (CEDAW/C/13/Add.24 and Amend.1), to be considered together. 6/

A tentative timetable listing the time at which each report of a State party is scheduled for consideration by the Committee is annexed to the present document.

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that representatives of States parties shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the State's report is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the report. The Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its twelfth session.

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*At its tenth session, the Committee decided that, if States parties whose reports were overdue by the conclusion of that session so wished, they could each submit a combined report to the Committee and that such reports should be numbered by the Secretariat in a way that facilitated their implementation (Official Records of the General Assembly, Forth-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), para. 370).

Rule 47 of the rules of procedure provides that at each session the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of the non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. The Committee at its twelfth session will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1993/2).

At its ninth session, 7/ the Committee decided that a pre-session working group should be convened before its tenth session and before each subsequent session, as agreed by the Committee at its eighth session, 8/ to prepare issues and questions relating to second and subsequent periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meeting at which their reports were scheduled to be discussed. The pre-session working group for the twelfth session is scheduled to meet at Vienna from 11 to 15 January 1993.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1993/2)

Second periodic report of Bangladesh (CEDAW/C/13/Add.30)

Second periodic report of France (CEDAW/C/FRA/2)

Initial report of Guyana (CEDAW/C/5/Add.63)

Initial report of Iraq (CEDAW/C/5/Add.66/Rev.1)

Combined initial and second periodic reports of Kenya (CEDAW/C/KEN/1-2)

Initial report of Madagascar (CEDAW/C/5/Add.65/Rev.1)

Second periodic report of Nicaragua (CEDAW/C/13/Add.20)

Third periodic report of Nicaragua (CEDAW/C/NIC/3)

Second periodic report of the Republic of Korea (CEDAW/C/13/Add.28)

Initial report of Romania (CEDAW/C/5/Add.45)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Romania (CEDAW/C/ROM/2-3)

Third periodic report of Rwanda (CEDAW/C/RWA/3)

Third periodic report of Sweden (CEDAW/C/18/Add.1)

Second periodic report of the United Kingdom and Great Britain and Northern Ireland (CEDAW/C/UK/2 and Amend.1)

Initial report of Yemen (CEDAW/C/5/Add.61)

Second periodic report of Yemen (CEDAW/C/13/Add.24 and Amend.1)

Item 6

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States parties. Rule 48 of the rules of procedure provides that suggestions and general recommendations made by the Committee based on the examination of reports received from States parties under article 18 of the Convention shall be communicated by the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to the States parties for their comments.

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities. The Committee at its twelfth session will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on reports by specialized agencies on that subject (CEDAW/C/1993/3 and Add.1).

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to provide, under the item of its agenda entitled "Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations to present to the Committee in plenary information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions. 9/

At the same session, the Committee decided to select and to review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties. 10/

The Committee, at its tenth session, also decided that it should prepare comments on particular articles of the Convention, which would assist in the formulation of the Committee's recommendations relating to those articles. 11/ At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that all pending and newly tabled recommendations, as well as the comments of working group II on article 6, would be included as part of general comments on individual articles of the Convention. 12/

The Committee, at its tenth session, decided that it would examine at its twelfth session articles 9 and 16 (and other articles of the Convention related to the family). 13/ At its eleventh session, the Committee agreed that priority should be given to articles relevant to the family, in preparation for the International Year of the Family, to be observed in 1994. 14/ The Committee at its twelfth session will have before it a report of the Secretariat on that subject (CEDAW/C/1993/4).

The Committee, also at its tenth session, requested the Secretariat to prepare for each session of the Committee, for its information, a report on the implications for its work of the priority themes prepared, or under preparation, for the consideration of the Commission on the Status of Women. 15/

The Committee at its twelfth session will have before it a report of the Secretariat on that subject (CEDAW/C/1993/5).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on reports provided by specialized agencies of the United Nations on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/1993/3)

Addendum to the note by the Secretary-General on reports provided by specialized agencies of the United Nations on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/1993/3/Add.1)

Report of the Secretariat on analysis of article 16 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1993/4)

Report of the Secretariat on the implications for the work of the Committee of the priority themes of the Commission on the Status of Women (CEDAW/C/1993/5)

Item 7

Because of the limited time available to it to consider reports of States parties and the increased backlog of reports awaiting consideration, the Committee, at its eleventh session, decided to request the approval of a proposal that the Committee in 1993 should have two sessions of two weeks' duration or an extended session of three weeks' duration. 16/ On the recommendation of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1992/17, supported the proposal that the twelfth session of the Committee should be of three weeks' duration and recommended that three weeks be allocated for each subsequent session until the Committee removes its backlog in considering reports. The final decision is pending action by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

In its resolution 1992/3, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities requested the Secretary-General to seek the view of the Committee on the desirability of obtaining an advisory opinion on the validity and legal effect of reservations to the Convention and to invite the Committee to make such further observations on the issue of reservations to the Convention as it may consider appropriate.

Item 8

In line with General Assembly resolution 46/111, the fourth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, held at Geneva from 12 to 16 October 1992, reviewed the recent developments relating to the work of the treaty bodies and considered recommendations of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights. The Committee at its twelfth session will have before it the report of the fourth meeting.

Documentation

Report of the fourth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies

Item 9

At its eleventh session, the Committee adopted suggestion 3 on the World Conference on Human Rights, by which it requested that the issue of the equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women should be fully reflected in the agenda of the World Conference, in particular the close relationship between the rights guaranteed by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and those guaranteed under other international human rights instruments. The Committee also suggested that, as far as possible, documentation prepared for the World Conference, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/116, should include a gender perspective. 17/

The Committee, at its eleventh session, suggested that the Manual on Human Rights Reporting, 18/ prepared by the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, should be translated into the other official languages of the United Nations as soon as possible and should be distributed to all States parties to the Convention. The Committee also suggested that the Secretary-General should prepare a publication on the Convention and on the work of the Committee similar to the Fact Sheets that had been prepared for other human rights instruments and bodies. 17/

Also at its eleventh session, the Committee asked its Chairperson, when taking part in the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, to place on the agenda of the World Conference the global issue of reservations to human rights conventions. 19/

The Committee, also at its eleventh session, 20/ agreed to use its analysis of article 16 of the Convention 21/ as a contribution to the International Year of the Family. It deferred to its twelfth session a decision on its contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in 1995. 22/

Item 10

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session. 23/ It also decided 24/ that at each session:

(a) It would set a programme for the following two or three sessions, which could be revised and amended at each subsequent session;

(b) It would select one or more articles or subjects for study;

(c) The Secretariat would prepare a background report as a pre-session document to be considered by the Committee during its examination of the articles or subjects concerned.

Also at its tenth session, the Committee decided that the programme for its thirteenth session would be articles 7 and 8. 24/

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Item 11

Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly on its activities.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/38/45), annex II.

2/ "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (eleventh session)" (A/47/38), para. 474. The report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/47/38).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/43/38), para. 26.

4/ "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (eleventh session) ...", para. 24.

5/ Ibid., paras. 457-458.

6/ Ibid., para. 457, footnote.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/45/38), para. 28.

8/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38), para. 22.

9/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), para. 373.

10/ Ibid., para. 375.

11/ Ibid., para. 380.

12/ "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (eleventh session) ...", para. 465.

13/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), paras. 381-382.

14/ "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (eleventh session) ...", para. 466.

15/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), para. 376.

16/ "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (eleventh session) ...", para. 454.

17/ Ibid., chap. I.

18/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.XIV.1.

19/ "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (eleventh session) ...", paras. 469-470.

20/ Ibid., para. 471.

21/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), paras. 39-40.

22/ "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (eleventh session) ...", para. 473.

23/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), para. 369.

24/ Ibid., paras. 381-382.

Annex

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF STATES PARTIES BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AT ITS TWELFTH SESSION

State party	Report(s)	Document number	Date
Romania	Initial	CEDAW/C/5/Add.45	Monday, 18 January 1993 (afternoon)
	Combined a/ second and third periodic	CEDAW/C/ROM/2-3	Thursday, 21 January 1993 (afternoon)
Guyana	Initial	CEDAW/C/5/Add.63	Tuesday, 19 January 1993 (morning) Thursday, 21 January 1993 (afternoon)
Iraq	Initial	CEDAW/C/5/Add.66/Rev.1	Tuesday, 19 January 1993 (afternoon) Friday, 22 January 1993 (morning)
Yemen	Initial and second periodic together b/	CEDAW/C/5/Add.61 and CEDAW/C/13/Add.24 and Amend.1	Wednesday, 20 January 1993 (morning) Friday, 22 January 1993 (morning)
Kenya	Combined a/ initial and second periodic	CEDAW/C/KEN/1-2	Monday, 25 January 1993 (morning) Wednesday, 27 January 1993 (afternoon)
Madagascar	Initial	CEDAW/C/5/Add.65/Rev.1	Monday, 25 January 1993 (afternoon) Wednesday, 27 January 1993 (afternoon)
Nicaragua	Second periodic and third periodic together	CEDAW/C/13/Add.20 and CEDAW/C/NIC/3	Tuesday, 26 January 1993 (morning)
Bangladesh	Second periodic	CEDAW/C/13/Add.30	Tuesday, 26 January 1993 (afternoon)
France	Second periodic	CEDAW/C/FRA/2	Wednesday, 27 January 1993 (afternoon)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Second periodic	CEDAW/C/UK/2 and Amend.1	Thursday, 28 January 1993 (morning)

State party	Report(s)	Document number	Date
Republic of Korea	Second periodic	CEDAW/C/13/Add.28	Thursday, 28 January 1993 (afternoon)
Sweden	Third periodic	CEDAW/C/18/Add.1	Monday, 1 February 1993 (morning)
Rwanda	Third periodic	CEDAW/C/RWA/3	Monday, 1 February 1993 (afternoon)

Notes

a/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38), para. 370.

b/ See "Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (eleventh session)" (A/47/38), para. 457, footnote. The report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/47/38).